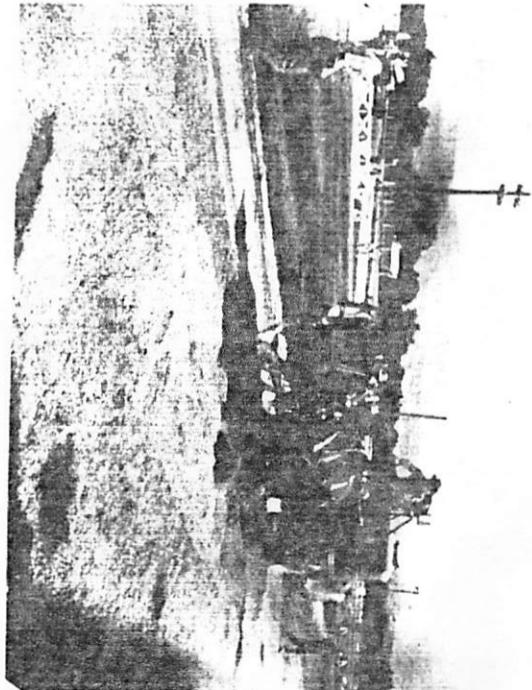


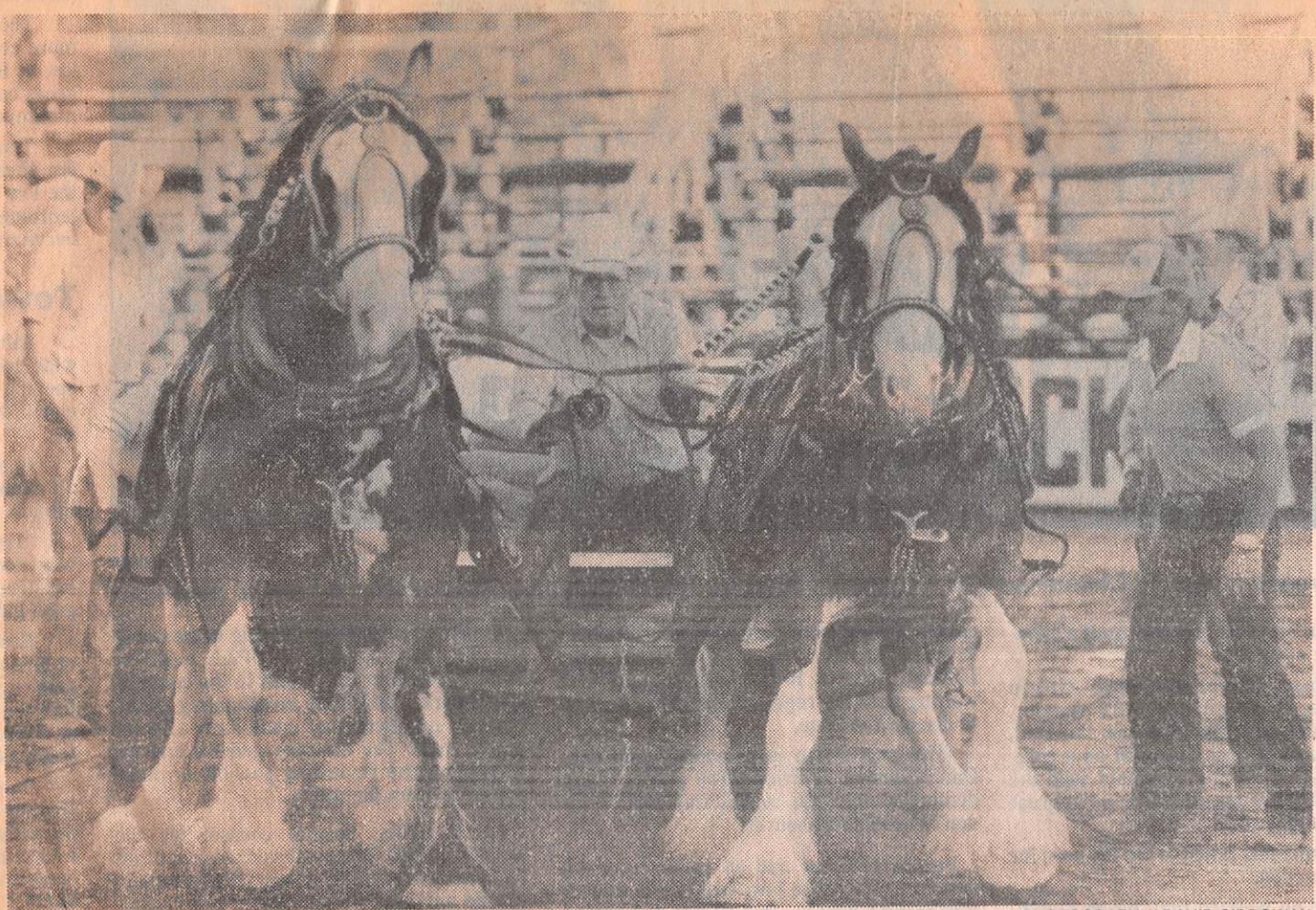
HORSE PULLING CONTESTS

"Fat is a good color on horses," Brigham Young once said. The beautiful horses owned by the Lehmitz brothers are not only fat, well known and admired, but are rated as some of the best in Utah. In 1940 the Lehmitz horses were taken to the State Fair, hitched to the dynamometer, a weight pulling machine, and took the prize.

In 1955 and 1959 they won first place with their lightweight horses - 1400 lbs. each - at the State Fair. Second places were won by their middleweights - 1500 lbs. each - and their heavyweights of 2000 lbs. each.

Horse pulling is a popular sport among lovers of horse flesh. These horses have taken first place at the Salt Lake County Fair for the last six years and pulled at the State Fair for ten. In the picture below Dean is in front, Glen is driving and the horses have just pulled all that the dynamometer registers.





PHOTOGRAPHY/ DAVID SIDDOWAY

Not for cream puffs

19 June 1986 *Des News*

It's not all strawberries and cream at Pleasant Grove's annual Strawberry Days celebration. A horse pulling contest that opened the event pitted teams, including this straining pair, to see which could pull the heaviest load. Teams in three classes — light, middle and heavyweight — did their thing as the local summer event of the year got under way. Their loads range from 3,500 to 10,000 pounds. Ro-

deo Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. will pit horses and riders in various events in the Pleasant Grove Rodeo Arena. A swimming meet is on the agenda for Saturday, with warmups at 8 a.m. and competition at 9. A road race scheduled for Saturday morning has been canceled. Those who registered can pick up refunds at the Parks and Recreation office between 3 and 5 p.m. daily.

Family pulls together — with a lot of horse sense

By Bruce Hills
17 July 1987
Deseret News staff writer

Horse pulling, one of Utah's oldest sports and one of the fastest growing sports in the country, has become a new passion for a Salt Lake man and his family.

Ross Taylor, 991 E. 4580 South, became interested in horse pulling a year ago after his daughter, Shelley, married Scott Woolstenhulme, Wan ship, one of the top horse-pulling competitors in the Mountain West.

Taylor then interested his wife, Barbara, and his son, Colin, in the sport, and he and Colin purchased four Belgians, among the strongest and heaviest of all draft horses.

Within a few months, Taylor became one of the biggest supporters of the sport in Utah and one of the state's most serious contenders. He and Colin entered only a few horse-pulling events



PHOTOGRAPHY/ BRUCE HILLS

Ross Taylor includes his entire family in training four massive Belgian horses for horse-pulling competitions throughout region.

last year, but they have competed in three contests already this year, scoring among the top three positions each time, and they expect to enter at least 16 more contests later this year in Utah, Idaho and California.

Taylor's daughter, Shelley, has competed on her own, with the encouragement of her husband and her father, and is undefeated this year in Utah competition. She is one of the few female horse-pulling competitors in the Mountain West.

Whenever the family enters a horse-

pulling contest, plenty of cheerleaders are on hand. Taylor's wife watches the competition in the stands with 11 grandchildren and other relatives gathered around.

"We really love this sport," Taylor said. "It is certainly a family sport that everyone can enjoy. It is really a thrill to be in command of two huge horses, some weighing more than two tons, and competing against other horses and drivers."

Please see HORSE on B2

He exercises them every night between 6 and 8 p.m. in a 10-acre field at Ninth East and 4570 South. "I want to invite anybody to come and watch us work our horses any night."

He and his father, the late Ralph Taylor, used to do road work and dig basements with huge draft horses. "I was no stranger to draft horses or horse-pulling contests. My family has gone to horse-pulling contests

for years, but I didn't think about getting into the sport myself until I met Scott."

Taylor said horse pulling may be the oldest sport in Utah. "When Mormon pioneers came to Utah in 1847, they had few opportunities for organized sports activities, but they had draft horses and oxen and they would hold pulling contests. It was probably one of the only entertainments many early Mormons had."

He said draft horses were a main mode of transportation in the West during early pioneer days and were "the tractors of the pioneers, who used draft horses to pull farm wagons and plows and to do the heavy work in the mining, logging and construction industries."

During leisure hours, competition was commonplace in the late 1800s

and early 1900s, and up into the 1930s and 1940s horse-pulling matches were extremely popular in the West and especially in Utah, he said.

After World War II, when tractors and mechanical equipment became readily available, draft horses nearly disappeared and horse-pulling competition declined.

Horse-pulling contests scheduled this year include contests in Draper, July 24; Price, July 31; Morgan, Aug. 3; Heber, Aug. 4; Deseret, Aug. 7; Richfield, Aug. 8; Provo, Aug. 12; Beaver, Aug. 15; Duchesne, Aug. 18; the Salt Lake County Fair in Murray, Aug. 19; Nephi, Aug. 22; Tremonton, Aug. 26; Payson, Sept. 4; Blackfoot, Idaho, Sept. 7; the Utah State Fair, Sept. 10; and Los Angeles, Calif., Sept. 26.